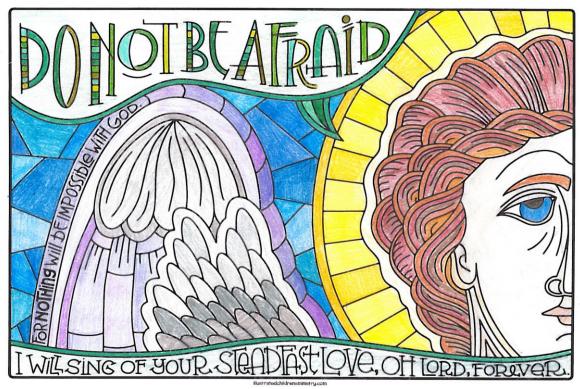
Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, December 10, 2017

The Second Sunday of Advent ~ Centennial Sunday

Micah Kearney Pastor Greg Cline Organist/Choirmaster



By Ginny Shoemaker

GATHERING/WELCOME: Carry the Light	HCLC Choirs
PRELUDE: God Bless Us Everyone	. HCLC Choirs

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

- P Blessed be the holy Trinity, \pm one God, who comes to wake us from sleep, who leads us into the light of grace.
- C Amen.
- P Let us prepare the way of the Lord by confessing our sin against God and neighbor.

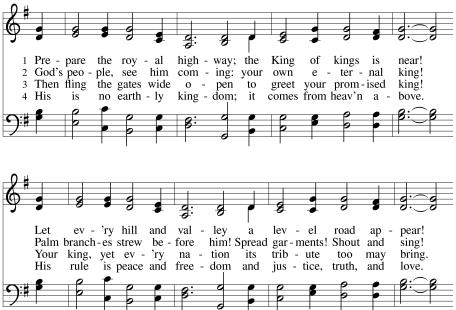
Silence is kept for reflection.

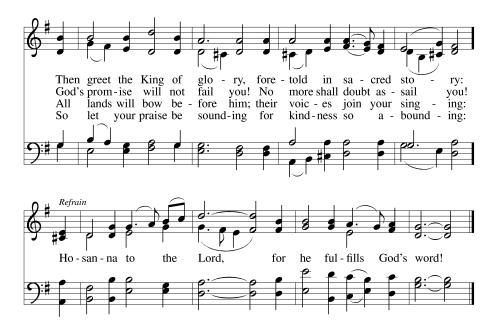
- P God of all time,
- C we confess that we have not prepared for your merciful reign among us. We ignore our neighbors in need and fail in the labor of justice and peace. In your mercy forgive us. Grant us wisdom to welcome your light and to seek the things that will endure until Christ comes again in glory. Amen.
- P Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. In \(\frac{1}{2}\) Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven and all things are made new. Rejoice in this good news!

 C Amen.

C Amen

GATHERING SONG: *Prepare the Royal Highway* All Stand & Sing



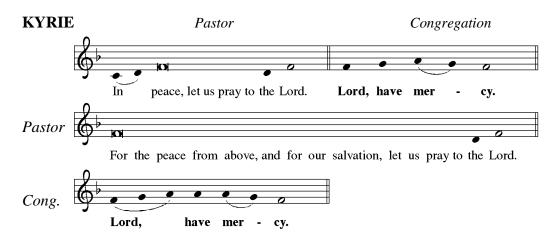


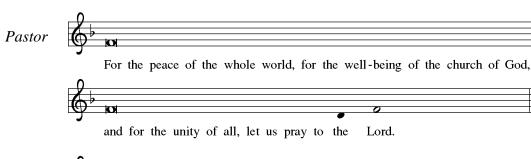
Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship* Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent. Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

GREETING

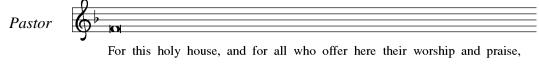
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

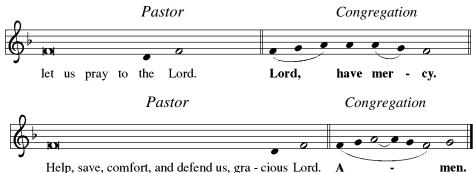
C And also with you.



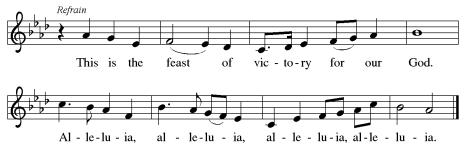








CANTICLE OF PRAISE





PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Congregation is Seated and are invited to sing "Jesus Loves Me" as the children come forward.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Children ages 4 to 8 years-old are invited to go to the Education building for a 20-minute (or so) time together immediately after the Children's sermon. Children will return to their parents during the hymn of the day. Children birth through 3 years-old are invited to join others their age in the nurseries.

FIRST READING Isaiah 40:1–11

A reading from the fortieth chapter of Isaiah.

In grand, flowing, poetic lines, the prophet announces that the exile of God's people in Babylon is over. The Lord will deliver Israel and will care for her as a shepherd cares for his sheep. This word can be trusted, because the only enduring reality in life is the word of the Lord.

¹Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her

that she has served her term,

that her penalty is paid,

that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up,

and every mountain and hill be made low;

the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain.

⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass,

their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;

surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain,

O Zion, herald of good tidings;

lift up your voice with strength,

O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,

lift it up, do not fear;

say to the cities of Judah,

"Here is your God!"

¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him:

his reward is with him,

and his recompense before him.

¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



LIGHTING ADVENT WREATH

. All Sing

The second candle reminds us that Christ comes to bring **PEACE** to our hearts and minds as we pray for peace in the world.



2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.

SECOND READING 2 Peter 3: 8-15a

A reading from the third chapter of 2 Peter.

This short letter deals with pressing concerns regarding the final advent of Jesus, especially concerns that could arise over its apparent delay. The author of the letter calls on Christians to anticipate the promised coming of the Lord through conduct dedicated to God.

⁸Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

¹¹Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; ^{15a} and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

- A The word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL PROCESSIONAL

(Congregation turns to face procession and remains standing for Gospel & Gospel verse)



GOSPEL Mark 1:1-8

Bp The holy gospel according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a story of Jesus' birth but with the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord.

¹The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way;

³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"



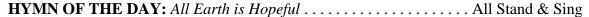
⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Bp The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

The Congregation is seated.

SERMON Bishop Tim Smith





- 1 All earth is hope-ful, the Sav-ior comes at last!
- 2 Peo ple of Is rael, you heard the proph et tell: 3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;
- 4 We first saw Je sus a ba by in a crib.



Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the bear Em-man - u - el"; "A vir - gin moth - er will she con pro - to - cols de - clared. high - ways o - pened, new Al - most same Lord Je - sus to day has come to live our



la bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how ceived him, "God with us," broth - er, whose birth our re here! God near - ing, beau - ty grace! All is in and world: he pres - ent, in neigh - bors is we see our



God's truth and jus-tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free. stores hope and cour-age to chil - dren of this earth. clear ev - 'ry gate-way, in haste, come out in haste!

Je - sus is with us, and

ev-er sets us free.

Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946 Music: TODA LA TIERRA, Alberto Taulé

Spanish text and tune © 1993 and English text © 1995 Centro de Pastoral Litúrgica, admin. OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Guided by the light of Christ, let us pray for the coming dawn of joy, healing, and comfort for all God's people.

A brief silence.

We long to see your glory. Prepare our hearts for your arrival by healing divisions in your church and blessing those who work for reconciliation within it. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for your creation. Bring renewal to open spaces, parks, forests, mountains, and grasslands. Restore the creatures and lands that are damaged or destroyed. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We long for your peace. Make places of welcome for people fleeing violence. For nations facing conflict or crisis, deliver relief. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We seek healing for all people who long for justice, freedom, and comfort. Sustain them in their time of need. Be with all who wait for you, who suffer in body, mind, or spirit (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We give thanks for those who are ready to help in times of crisis. Give courage to disaster and emergency response teams, police officers, nurses, doctors, surgeons, chaplains, and all who work for the sake of others. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We give thanks for your faithfulness and kingdom work through Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter these 100 years, and for the faithfulness and witness of the saints in ministry before us. Inspire us by your grace, and guide our ministry for years to come, that we might be a reflection of your love for the world. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We are your beloved flock and you are our shepherd, O God. Along with the saints already at rest in you, bring us together as your people under your holy rule. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We raise our prayers to you, O God, in the name of the one who is, who was, and who is to come, Jesus Christ our Lord **Amen.**

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERING

And the Glory of the Lord shall be revealed, And all flesh shall see it together; For the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

Isaiah 40:56

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: As The Grains of Wheat All Stand & Sing

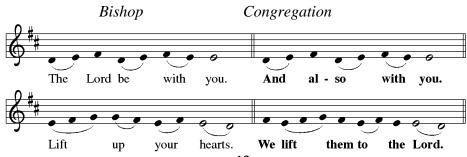


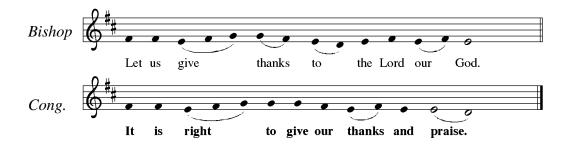
OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray.

C Savior of the nations, come. Make your home here in us. Feed us with your love, that our faith shine ever new and our lives reveal your light. Amen.

DIALOGUE

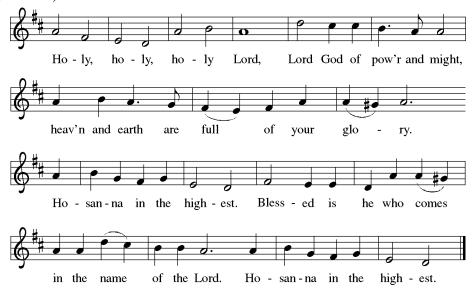




PREFACE

Bp ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Bp Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you. Share in the feast of salvation.

C Thanks be to God



COMMUNION

A cordial invitation is extended to all persons to participate in the celebration of the real presence of the Risen Christ in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the

world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the

world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.



Text: Delores Dufner, osB, b. 1939

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

Text © 1993 Delores Dufner OSB. Published by OCP Publications. All rights reserved.

Bp The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray.

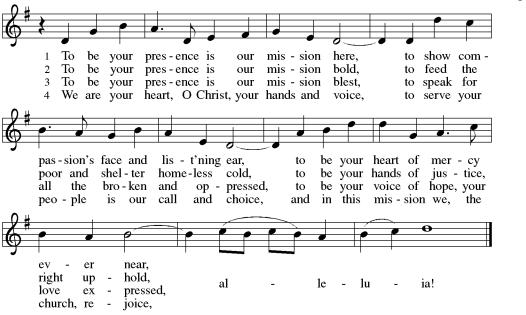
C God for whom we wait, you come to us in the broken bread and the cup we share. Make us ready always to welcome Christ into our hearts, and send us forth to be your people in the world, announcing your coming among us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

P May Christ, the Sun of righteousness, shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen.





Text: Delores Dufner, osB, b. 1939
Music: ENGELBERG, Charles V. Stanford, 1852–1924
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DISMISSAL

- P Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all our visitors on this Second Sunday of Advent. We pray that you will find a warm fellowship while you are among us and that you will return home with a renewed sense of dedication to Jesus Christ. Please sign our guest register or a visitor's card so that we can become acquainted with you. If you are without a church home, we invite you to investigate membership in this family of God.

<u>CHILDREN</u> are welcome in worship. Jesus said, "let the children come to me!" Parents are encouraged to utilize the Kids Worship Kits found in the Narthex for older toddlers through early elementary age. Nurseries for children (**infants through 3 years old**) are in the Education building. Let an usher know if you need assistance.

KIDS' WORSHIP CENTER: Pick up kits as you enter for worship! **Please return the tote bag** with the plastic bag of crayons, scratch pads, and pencils to the stand in the narthex. The children may take any papers home with them.

PRAYER REQUESTS: A notebook has been placed in the narthex for your prayer requests during the week. The book will be in the narthex on Sundays and in the church office during the week. If you wish a name to be added to our prayer list, please fill out a form from the prayer book or fill in a form online at www.holyc.org.

THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God by Deb Williams in honor of her grandson Brody's birthday.

<u>Those who have placed flowers on the altar</u> may use the containers to take them home, but please return the containers to the church.

Carmen Buell, Worship & Music

Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, December 3, 2017:

Attendance: 146		
Budget Report	December 3, 2017	Year-To-Date
Current Offering	\$ 9,701.00	\$254,027.93
Expenses	<u>\$ 5,656.42</u>	261,628.29
Offering less Expenses	\$ 4,643.00	(\$ 7,600.36)
Offering less Budgeted Expenses		\$272,040.37
		(\$ 18,012.44)

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Billy Joye GREETER: Carmen Buell

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS: Volunteers TELLERS: Janet & Brian Achor

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 3)
Fran Holland, Co-Captain
Tracey Nault, Co-Captain

Amanda Kelly Katie Kessen

Rebecca Yount

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: Volunteers ACCOMPANIST: Jo Irwin

EUCHARIST PRESENTERS: Volunteers CONDUCTOR: Steve Bingham

NURSERY: (9:30-11:45 am) *Infants:* Staff *Toddlers:* Volunteer

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: December 10-16

Today, December 10 Caitlan Reese December 12 Janet Achor

Marguerite Shive December 13 Brody Alvarez

Denise Wiegand December 15 Greg Cline

December 11 Beth Brittain

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, Sunday, December 10

9:00 am Adult Handbells

9:30 am Play practice, Adult S.S.

10:10 am Church Choir prep

10:30 am The Service w/Holy Communion,

then Luncheon at *The Haid*, on the Belmont Abbey campus

6:00 pm Church Choir

Tuesday, December 12

7:00 pm Nar-Anon

Wednesday, December 13

6:00 pm Dinner

USHERS: Volunteers

Krystyna Sarrazin

CHILDREN'S CHURCH:

6:45 pm Advent Worship with

Holy Communion

7:30 pm Chamber Choir

Saturday, December 16

2:00 pm Play practice 3:00 pm Santa Visit

(replaces Kids' Club)

THE FIGURES ADDED TO OUR CRECHE this morning are Mary & Joseph. We are reminded that Mary and Joseph traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem because Caesar Augustus declared that a Census must be taken. Thus, Mary and Joseph ended up in a stall because there was no room for them in the inn.



THE BLUE CANDLE in the crèche reminds us that we are to keep our hearts and minds in confession and prayer this entire Advent Season.

The **2018 Flower Chart** is Now Available in the Narthex.

Please print your name at the date you wish to furnish the altar vases (1 or both).

If you wish to purchase both vases, please sign your name on both lines.

Cost of both vases = \$45; One vase = \$22.50.

The Gardner-Webb University Student String Quartet is sponsored by Steve and Deb Bingham in celebration of Holy Comforter's Centennial Anniversary and in memorial to their fathers, Robert Franklin Bingham and Herman Howard Kivett, Sr.

Violin I: Billy Norton Viola: Hannah Green

Violin II: Sarah Covington Cello: MacKenzie Quattlebaum



SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER SUNDAY SERVICES:

December 10: 10:30 am **Centennial** Worship Service with **Holy Communion**

December 17: 10:30 am Children's Christmas Program

With Holy Communion

December 24: 10:30 am Worship Service with Holy Communion

10:45 pm Prelude

11:00 pm Candlelight Service with Holy Communion

December 31: 10:30 am Regular Service with Christmas Carols

NOTE: ALL year-end reports from church council and committee chairs are due to Dianne in the church office by January 2, 2018. These reports will be included in the annual report distributed to the congregation at a meeting the middle of January.



PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen Carmen Buell Brenda Dabrowski Ardean Ewing Becke Featherstone Ned Featherstone Dot Holland

Zac Hullander
Jo Irwin
Chase Lineberger
Holly Peche
Sherry Perry
Marguerite Shive
Ron Speck

Denise Taylor
Jack Tench
Beverly Reynolds
Kathie Schaumburg
Jerri Wesson

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Jeanne Bernhardt Barbara Bingham Amy Beale Blythe Doug Brewer Karen de la Vega Carol Fox Larry "Poss" Garrett Brandi Hager John McDermid Clarence McLain Jennifer Lineberger Anne Murdy Brody Thornburg Dennis Yates



OUR SERVICEMEN

Tom Kasmer Leo Kasmer

Please remember these people in your prayers.

If anyone has a person who needs to be added or removed from this list, please inform the church office.

The sign-up prayer forms are in the narthex and online at www.holyc.o





The **National Youth Gathering** is exactly what it sounds like, 30,000 + youth will gather in Houston. We are excited to serve, worship and gather in large community.

There are 199 days till our group of 7 travels to Houston!

For more information or looking to help, talk to Beka.

BCO December Items of the Month



Grits & Oatmeal





PB&J CAMPAIGN

The North Carolina Guardian ad Litem Program is conducting its annual *Peanut Butter & Jelly Campaign*. Please place your donations of peanut butter and/or jelly in the labeled box located in the fellowship hall. Your donations will be taken to the Guardian ad Litem office in the Gaston County courthouse. Donations will then be distributed to the food banks in the county. The collection of peanut butter and jelly runs through January 12.







Poinsettia Order Form



Your Name:	
Telephone Number:	_ Email:
In Honor of:	
In Memory Of:	
To the Glory of God:	
Number of poinsettias ordered:	_Total cost @ \$15 each:
Payment by check:	Payment by cash:

Remember to add **\$15 for each** poinsettia ordered. Payment must be attached to order form.

Deadline to place your order is <u>today</u>, December 10th. You may give your order form and payment to an usher or take to the church office.

Please indicate on your check that it is for a poinsettia order.

Holy Comforter Lutheran Church

216 N. Main Street Belmont, NC 28012 704-825-2483 holycomforter@gmail.com

SUNDAY SCHEDULE: 9:30 am Sunday School, 10:30 am The Service Church Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:30 am — 3:00 pm

Micah Kearney, Pastor email: MicahKearney@gmail.com Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster Beka Forst, Director of Youth & Family Ministries Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager